Brie Dickens

10/10/12

Transcript

*"I was given a volume of blank pages- how typical of my father!- and instructed to keep a daily journal of my voyage across the ocean so that the writing of it should prove of educational value to me. Indeed, my father warned me that not only would he read the journal and comment upon it, but he would pay particular attention to spelling- not, my strongest suit.*

*Keeping that journal then is what enables me to relate now in perfect detail everything that transpired during that fateful voyage across the Atlantic Ocean in the summer of 1832" (Avi, 3).*

Do you like action, adventure, and scandals? Do you enjoy reading about life on the open sea? If these are features of a novel that appeal to you, *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi has the tale of a thirteen-year old girl and her experiences with a murderous captain and a mutinous crew waiting between its pages.

This thrilling story captures the growth of its female protagonist, Charlotte Doyle, as her views about social standing evolve. The reader matures with the main character as she embarks on a journey with strangers, who will teach her that appearances are not always as telling as she once thought. Charlotte learns that a man, who she considered to be a distinguished gentlemen, is really a hardened, abominable force to be reckoned with, and that a semi-odd man, who she presumed to be below her station, is actually looking out for her best interests. After a horrifying act of discipline resulting from a stamped out mutiny, Charlotte finds herself all alone with no one to turn to for comfort. She was the one who reported the mutiny and then defied the captain after all. Further encounters with the crew and captain of the *Seahawk*, the ship that she travelled on,show her the importance of knowing who her true enemies, and allow her to learn the real meaning of honor and loyalty.

I highly recommend *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle,* because it is an enticing page-turner that will leave you wanting more. Avi provides his audience with certain elements such as spectacular imagery, ship jargon, and a diagram of the different stations and parts of a ship to captivate his readers. Through Charlotte, he allows the reader to feel as if he or she is one of the crewmen. Avi's audience comes to realize what life on a ship in the 1830's was like. There are tiny, damp living quarters, rough expectations of manual labor, and feelings of suspicion among everyone. If you are one who loves to dive into history and the many adventures it offers, pick up a copy of this novel and come along for the ride!